How To Build an NREN Without A Network

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NRENs emerged in response to the commercialization of the Internet ...

• A not-for-profit organization providing advanced services to a well bounded community

• At their core, NRENs exist to enable efficient, reliable data communications and networking services for their nation’s research and education communities. NRENs also form a local and international research and education network, allowing local and global collaboration

• The ultimate purpose of an NREN is to serve scholars and innovators, ensuring that Lebanon research and development is contributing to the local and global economy

... by establishing reliable, cost-effective, high speed networks for research
In 2011, Lebanon tried to build an NREN...

- Ministry of Education along with CNRS led the effort to establish an NREN in Lebanon

- Effort was focused on building a dedicated network to connect universities and research institutions in Lebanon

... but ...

- Political and infrastructure hurdles prevented network from coming to fruition

- Project went dormant waiting for the establishment of the network
So, when life gives you lemons …

We could achieve the academic and research objectives by first focusing on NREN services that do no require a physical network:

– Cloud Services
– Collaboration platforms
– Security Services

... make lemonade!
We started with eduroam for AUB
We then connected AUB to GÉANT & ASREN
... and used this to convince other institutions to join us ...
And we now have the beginnings of an NREN …

- LERN is our name!
- An active group of institutions working together
- Most are on Eduroam already, others coming onboard soon
- In discussions with local ISP to establish a university network

... all this without ...

- Funding
- Legal entity
- A real network

... and in less than a year!
... and we are now building on our NREN connections ...

• NRENum.net
• Federated services
• Educational Databases
• Shared Libraries
• HPC and specialized computing
• Collaboration services
• Distance Learning

... to deploy more services for LERN